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Smallpox in Pulaski County, Ark.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., May 7, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows concerning smallpox in Pulaski County, Ark.: To date there have been in the city of Little Rock and Argenta (North Little Rock) 71 cases. Of this number, 46 are now in the smallpox hospital, 7 are under treatment in the city, 11 have been discharged from the hospital, and 7 have recovered and been released in the city. Cases of smallpox are reported 4 miles southwest of the city, 5 miles south of the city, and at Sweet Home 5 miles southeast of the city. Cases are also reported at Scott's Station on the Altheimer branch of the St. Louis and Southwestern Railway, 16 miles southeast of Little Rock.

Very respectfully,

L. P. GIBSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

One case of smallpox in Chicago, Ill.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., May 4, 1898.

SIR: In conformity with the agreement entered into between the various State boards of health, I have the honor to inform you that a case of smallpox exists at Chicago, in the county of Cook, in this State. The person sick came from Mount Pleasant, Tenn. The origin of the disease is unknown.

Very respectfully,

J. A. EGAN, M. D.,
Secretary, State Board of Health.

Smallpox in Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, May 5, 1898.

SIR: In compliance with the resolutions adopted by the conference of State and provincial boards of health, October 6, 1886, it becomes my duty to inform you that a case of smallpox has been reported in Cincinnati, Ohio, in a negro coming from Kentucky. One case in Columbus; origin, Carroll, Ohio.

Respectfully, yours,

C. O. PROBST, M. D.,
Secretary.

Investigation of smallpox at Columbia and Sumter, S. C.

WILMINGTON, N. C., May 2, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in obedience to orders, Surgeon General's Office, April 23, 1898, I proceeded to Columbia, S. C., arriving at 10.30 p. m., April 27. I reported to the board of health of the city, and made an investigation of the situation. I found much the same condition of affairs here, as in so many other places. The disease not having been recognized as smallpox, or, at least, there had been such a difference of opinion in regard to it that the board of health had found great difficulty in inducing the people to take necessary precautions, or to get sufficient funds to properly handle the disease. At the time of my arrival, there were between 75 and 100 cases of smallpox in the city. Of this number, 53 were in a small building, some 2 miles distant from the city, under the care of a physician who was quarantined with the cases. There were numerous other cases scattered throughout the city, with whom persons were constantly coming in contact. These

cases were directed to remain at home, but there were no guards over them, and other members of the family went in and out as it pleased them. Vaccination was proceeding in rather a desultory fashion, and probably a third of the people had been more or less successfully vaccinated. There was a good deal of opposition to the vaccination ordinance, owing to the fact that there had been so many cases of greatly inflamed arms as a result of vaccination. A new board of health, mayor, and board of aldermen had just been elected, and had assumed office about one week previous to my arrival. The new officers had taken hold of the situation with vigor; an unused factory building had been secured and was being converted into a smallpox hospital, and they were awaiting my arrival to determine what further measures to adopt. I advised that a suspect camp be established, to which all persons who had been exposed, be taken and detained until the period of incubation had passed; that a corps of inspectors be organized; the city divided into a number of districts, and a house-to-house inspection be made by the inspectors, who should vaccinate all unprotected persons; that these inspectors should see every individual in his district at least every three days, and more frequently if possible; that sufficient guards be employed to guard the smallpox hospital and suspect camp; that a disinfecting division be formed to disinfect promptly all houses in which cases of smallpox had appeared. I made out a plan of organization and suggested methods of putting it into practice. At the request of the board of health, I appeared before the board of aldermen, assembled in special session to consider the situation, and outlined to them the measures that I considered necessary to suppress the epidemic. After hearing my statement, the board of aldermen appropriated the sum of \$3,000 additional for the suppression of smallpox. The board of health went vigorously to work to put into practice the suggestions offered, moving the patients to the new hospital, organizing a suspect camp, starting out a corps of inspectors, and otherwise taking the necessary steps to stamp out the disease. I called to pay my respects to his excellency W. H. Ellerbe, governor of South Carolina, and was requested by him to investigate the situation relative to the dangers from smallpox to the State troops, whose mobilization at Columbia previous to being mustered into the service of the United States was being considered. In view of the fact that there were a number of unguarded cases of smallpox in the city, and that it was not possible with the knowledge then possessed to say to what extent the city was infected, I advised against the mobilization of troops at Columbia at that time.

I left Columbia in the afternoon of April 29, arriving at Sumter, S. C., the same evening. In company with Dr. C. S. Baker, president of the Sumter board of health, I visited the smallpox hospital and found 1 case of smallpox (a negro) in the third week of the disease. I also saw 2 cases (white) in the city; 1 in the third day of the disease and 1 in the third day of the eruption. I confirmed the diagnosis of smallpox in all these cases. I was informed that there were other cases in the city, making a total of 10 or 12. I advised the same measures as at Columbia. I met the mayor and the city council, explained the situation to them, and advised with them as to the measures to be taken to suppress the disease. They appropriated \$1,500 as an epidemic fund, and the board of health proceeded to put into effect the measures suggested. I left Sumter May 1, arriving at Wilmington the same afternoon. The disease continues to be of a mild type, but seems to be

increasing in virulence. I noticed about a dozen confluent cases in the hospital at Columbia, 1 of which was dying at the time of my visit.

In each of the places that I have visited, the authorities have expressed themselves as grateful to the Marine-Hospital Service, and said that the visit had been of great assistance to them. The fact that the type of the disease has been so mild, with but few deaths, has led to the diagnosis of chickenpox, etc., by some members of the profession, and "elephant itch," "nigger itch," and numerous other names that are unfamiliar to medical men, by the laity. All of this, with the fact that very much inflamed arms after vaccination have been the rule, rather than the exception, has led to marked apathy in handling the disease, and strong opposition to compulsory vaccination. The statement of an officer of the Marine-Hospital Service, confirming the diagnosis of smallpox, and pointing out the dangers the presence of this disease in the city involves, usually has the effect of arousing the people to a realization of the situation, and they promptly acquiesce in any measures required by the authorities for its suppression. In this way the Service is rendering great assistance to the people. Many physicians have never seen a case of smallpox, and are unfamiliar with the methods necessary for its suppression.

Respectfully, yours,

C. P. WERTENBAKER,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox in Tennessee during April, 1898.

NASHVILLE, May 1, 1898.

SIR: The following is a statement showing the number of cases of smallpox developed in Tennessee during the month of April; also showing source of infection:

Points infected.	White.	Colored.	Totals.	Source of infection.
Knoxville, Knox County.....	6	6	12	Former cases.
Chattanooga, Hamilton County.....		1	1	Do.
Rutledge, Grainger County.....	2		2	Unknown.
Cleveland, Bradley County.....		6	6	Chattanooga.
Memphis, Shelby County.....		1	1	Little Rock, Ark.
Total.....	8	14	22	

During the past month, only two additional points were infected, namely, Cleveland, Bradley County, and Memphis. We are gratified to report the disease entirely stamped out at all points in Tennessee, with the exceptions as shown above.

Very respectfully,

J. A. ALBRIGHT, M. D.,
Secretary and Executive Officer, State Board of Health.

Smallpox in Columbus, Tex.

COLUMBUS, TEX., April 30, 1898.

SIR: In accordance with your request, I am pleased to hand you herewith a statement of the cases of smallpox coming under my care while acting as health officer for this city.

My report has been ready since April 2, but was withheld, with the intention of making a "joint report" with Dr. Thornton, who succeeded me as city health officer. * * *